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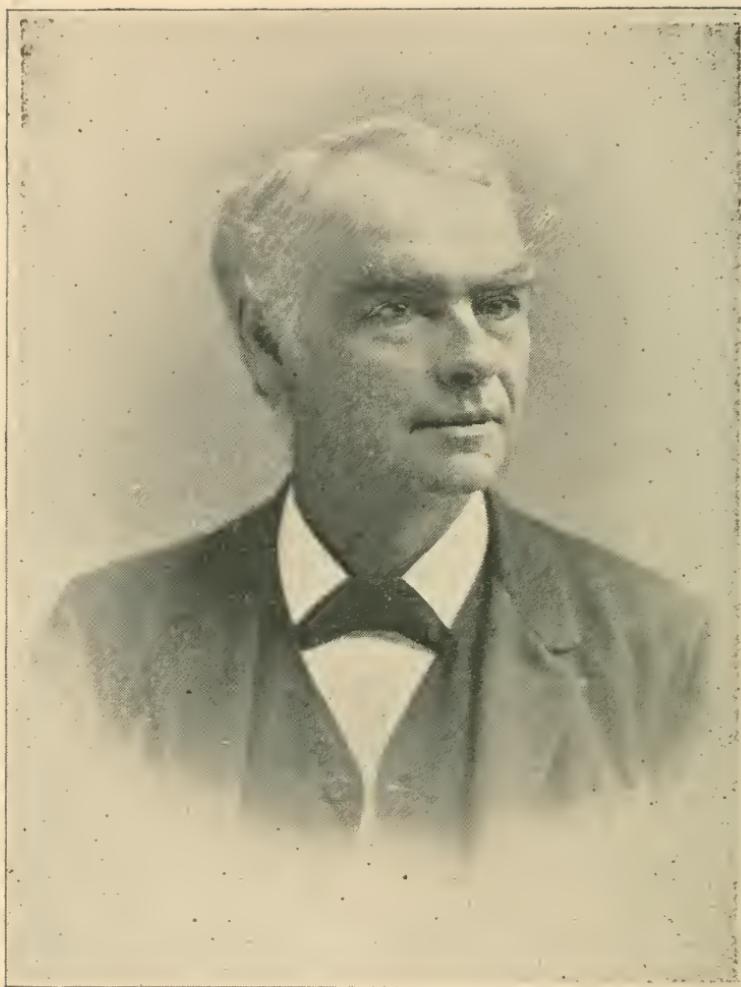
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Lebanon,
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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

1906





TABOR (First Reformed) CHURCH, LEBANON, PA.

Corner-stone laid June, 26th, 1792. Dedicated May, 8th, 1796

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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

1906

A HISTORY

—OF—

Tabor * First Reformed Church

LEBANON, PENNA.

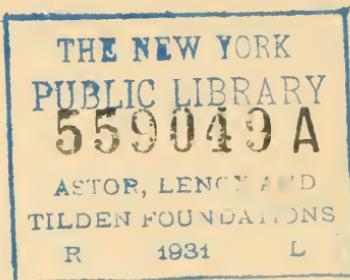
PUBLISHED AND COMPILED BY THE PASTOR,

REV. D. EARNEST KLOPF, D. D.

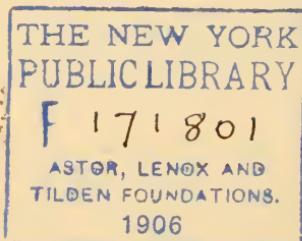
Commemorative of the One Hundredth Anniversary
of the Laying of the Corner-stone,

June 26th, 1892. - 1792

LEBANON, JUNE, 1892



M. H. BERGER
Steam Book, Job and Commercial Printer
No. 1709 Randolph Street
PHILADELPHIA





DEDICATION

In grateful appreciation of the goodness of God, in giving our fathers and their children such a goodly heritage, this little book is affectionately dedicated to the memory and work of those through whose devoted and faithful ministry this heritage has been preserved and cultivated, with such signal and blessed results.

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit; that they may rest from their labours; AND THEIR WORKS DO FOLLOW THEM.”

D. E. K.



PREFACE



WE are greatly indebted to the late Mr. J. B. Hies-
ter, from whose gathered material, as found in one of the
Church Books, a great part of this booklet has been com-
piled; especially that relating to the history of the Con-
gregation, previous to 1861, as also the section in regard
to the Pastors up to that time. We all owe a great debt
of gratitude to him for the labor thus, in love, expended
for the Church.

In the part referring to the Sabbath School, we are
glad to acknowledge the great service of Mr. Jos. L.
Lemberger, who for thirty-two years has superintended the
Sabbath School of the Church. It is now set forth in this
form, first as a part of the celebration services of the One
Hundredth Anniversary of the laying of the corner-stone
of the present Church edifice; secondly, that what is now
within the reach of only a few, may be the possession of
the many, and in this multiplication, the preservation of
the facts herein contained, may be the more fully assured.
But more than all, that we may all know more of our
Church homelife, and being and be moved by the past to
more earnest and faithful endeavor in the future. May
this, now done, in the Master's name be to his glory.

D. E. KLOPP

LEBANON, JUNE, 1892

FIRST PART

EARLY HISTORY, BEFORE AND FROM 1760 TO 1792

PREVIOUS to the year 1760, beyond which time, few, if any, records in regard to the Reformed Church in and about Lebanon are to be found, our Reformed Ancestry worshiped in a Church which then stood on a part of the farm now owned by Mr. Jacob Brubaker. The general name of the section was Grubben Land, and the Church was called "Grubben Church." It was about two miles south of Lebanon.

The Church was owned and used in common by the Reformed and Lutherans. We are told that papers referring to this ground and building are in the possession of a now aged descendant of those who worshiped there.

There is no doubt Rev. Conrad Templeman ministered to the Reformed people from 1727 or 1728 until 1760 or 1761. He lived at what was then called Templeman's Hill, on a farm now owned by Jacob Bucher, near the present village of Rexmont. (See more about him in the Pastoral History.)

In 1861, the house in which Templeman lived, was still standing. There is a picture of this house and its

surroundings at the parsonage. It came into the custody of the present Pastor by the kindness of the esteemed sister, and heirs of the late Dr. Kremer. The picture was photographed by Hon. Rudolph F. Kelker of Harrisburg, Pa., and by him given to his friend Dr. Kremer. With the picture is the following statement :

"Photograph of the front and rear elevations of the residence of the Rev. Conrad Templeman, Pastor in 1744, of the Reformed Congregation, worshipping in the "Hill Church" about five miles west of Lebanon, Pa. The house (1876) is still standing on the farm of Rev. George Bucher, one mile east of Cornwall Furnace, Lebanon County, Pa."

Belonging to and part of this picture is a photograph copy of the original agreement, made between the Reformed and Lutherans, the day previous to the dedication of the "Hill Church," and dated August 11th, 1744. This one is the one signed by the Reformed people and their Pastor Templeman. Another, which is an exact copy of this, was signed by the members of the Lutheran Congregation and their Pastor, Rev. John Casper Stoever.

On the Seventh (7th) day of January, 1755, Jacob Hoecker (or Hocker) conveyed by deed, two acres of land to Christopher Long, George Ellinger, Jacob Grove and John Wolfersbeger, for the use of the

Reformed and Lutheran Congregations at Grubben Land, on which the Church was built. On the 22d day of November, 1762, John Hamsher conveyed by deed, to John Adam Steiger, Frederick Wolfersbeger, Martin Hiller and David Harpsher, two (2) acres and twelve perches of land for the use of the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations, (afterwards called Grubben Church). The deed is recorded in Deed Book G., page 544, etc., consideration five (5) pounds.

George Steitz, is said to have laid out the town of Lebanon in 1756, (though George Reynold had laid out some lots in 1740) and who died about 1762, conveyed by indenture, dated June 10th, 1760, to Frederick Steindorff, Felix Miller and Jacob Sollinger, Deacons, as a gift, two contiguous lots of ground, in the town of Lebanon, on the corner of Hill (now Walnut Street) and what is now Partridge Alley, fronting on the South on Hill, or Walnut Street, and running Northward, 12 perches, to what is now Strawberry Alley. These two lots are the greater part of the old graveyard east of the Church. The consideration mentioned in this deed, was the payment of one *red rose* in the month of June of each and every year, if lawfully demanded.

A Church, no doubt a log building, was built on said lots, near, or towards the corner of Partridge and

Strawberry Alleys. It was dedicated on the 18th of July, 1762 (see Hebron Diary).

The Church was to be forever called Tabor. Here the Congregation held its services until June 12th, 1792, when the building was much damaged by lightning. During the time elapsing, until the present Church was ready for use, the Reformed people seem to have worshipped in the Lutheran Church Edifice.

The following is a copy of the original conveyance made by George Stites, and above referred to. This and other deeds here incorporated are links in this historic chain, and tell a part of the story :—

FIRST DEED

This Indenture, MADE the Tenth day of Jane, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty, *Between* George Stites of the Town of Lebanon, in the Township of Lebanon, in the County of Lancaster, and the Province of Pennsylvania, Gent, of the one part, and Frederick Steindorf, Felix Miller and Jacob Sollinger, all of the Township, County and Province aforesaid, Deacons of the Dutch Presbyterian Congregation, in the said Town of the other part. *Witnesseth*, that the said George Stites, as well regarding the advancement of true religion and piety, and favoring the meml ers of the said Congregation in the said sum of Five Shillings, lawful money of Pennsylvania, to him the said George Stites paid before Ensealing and Delivery of these Presents, the receipt and payment of which is hereby acknowledged, hath given, granted, released and confirmed, and by these Presents, (and the direction and appointment of the members or persons belonging to the said Congregation), Doth give, grant, release and confirm unto the said Frederick Steindorff, Felix Miller and Jacob Sollinger, their heirs and assigns, All that cer-

tain Lot or Piece of Ground, situate, lying and being in the said Town of Lebanon, containing in front on a street in the Plan of the said Town, called Hill Street, eight perches, thence along a Lot of John Myer's, twelve perches to a post, thence along Strawberry Alley, eight perches to a post, thence along Partridge Alley twelve perches to the place of beginning (part of a certain tract of land containing three hundred and sixty-five acres, and one hundred and twenty-six perches, which by the Patent of the Honorable Proprietaries of the said Province of Pennsylvania, dated the Twenty-second Day of May, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-three, was granted and confirmed to the said George Stites, his heirs and assigns forever,) which said Lot is known in the place of Said Town by the No. 136, *Together* with all and singular the Rights, members and appurtenances whatsoever to the same belonging or in any-wise appertaining, and the Reversions and Remainders thereof and all the Estate, Rights, Title, Property, Possessions, Claim and Demand as well in Law as in Equity of him the said George Stites, of in and to the same and every part thereof, to have and to hold the said described lot of Ground, Hereditaments and all and singular the Premises hereby granted and released for meant mentioned or intended so to be, with the appurtenances unto the said Frederick Steindorf, Felix Miller and Jacob Sollinger, and the Survivors and Survivor of them their Heirs, and Assigns forever, In trust to and for the only proper use and benefit and behoof of the said Dutch Presbyterian Congregation forever. And to no other Use, Intent or Purpose whatsoever (that is to say) as a place whereon to erect a House or Church for ye use of the said Congregation, wherein to perform Divine Services and Religious Worship, and as a Place wherein to bury their dead if need require, yielding and paying therefore unto the said George Stites his Heirs or Assigns, at the said town of Lebanon, the yearly rent of one *Red Rose* in the *Month of June* forever if lawfully demanded, *Provided*, always nevertheless that neither they the said Frederick Steindorff, Felix Miller and Jacob Sollinger, or any of them or any other person or persons succeeding them in this Trust, who shall or may happen to fall away from the said community or religious Fellowship, and shall be declared by the vestry and wardens for the time being to be out of unity with them, shall be capable to

execute this Trust, or stand seized to the uses aforesaid, nor have any Right or Title in the Premises while he or they shall be out of Unity aforesaid, but that in all such cases as also when any of them the said Frederick Steindorff, Felix Miller and Jacob Sollinger, or others succeeding them in the Trust aforesaid, shall draw near to depart this life, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the members of the said Congregation, or such as shall continue of the said community and religious Fellowship, as often as occasion shall require to make choice of others to manage and execute the said Trust, instead of such as shall so fall away or be Deceased. And further that they the said Frederick Steindorff, Felix Miller and Jacob Sollinger and the Survivors or Survivor of them their Heirs and Assigns, shall at the instance and request of the members of the said Congregation, either Assign, Surrender and set over, or convey and settle the said Lot and Premises to such other person or persons, as they the members of said Congregation shall therefore nominate and appoint to and for the Uses, Intents and Purposes aforesaid, in such manner and form as by the members of said Congregation, or by their Council, learned in the law shall reasonably be advised, devised or required, *And* the said George Stites for himself and his heirs doth Covenant and Promise, grant to and with the said Frederick Steindorff, Felix Miller and Jacob Sollinger, and the Survivors and Survivor of them, their Heirs and Assigns, by these Presents, that he the said George Stites and his heirs, the said above described Lot of Ground and Premises hereby granted and released, (or meant mentioned or intended so to be) with the appurtenance unto them the said Frederick Steindorff, Felix Miller and Jacob Sollinger, and the Survivors and Survivor of them their Heirs, and Assigns against him the said George Stites, and his Heirs and against all and every other person and Persons whatsoever (for the Uses, Intents and Purposes aforesaid) shall and will warrant and forever defend by these Presents, *In Witness* whereof the said parties to these Presents have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals, Dated the Day and Year first above written.

Sealed and Delivered in the presence of

ADAM REED }
JOHN THORNE }

GEORGE STEITS, [s. s.]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Be it Remembered, That on the Twenty-first Day of August, A.D., 1764, Before me the Subscriber, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the County of Lancaster, came the above named George Stites, and acknowledged the above Indenture to be his Act and Deed, and desired that the same might be recorded as such, according to law. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

ADAM REED, [s.s.]

SECOND OR SHERIFF'S DEED

For some reason, which it seems now difficult to determine with certainty, the following Indenture (or Sheriff's Deed) was made and executed, August 1st, 1765.

This Indenture, MADE the First Day of August in the year of our Lord, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty-five, between the Rev. John Casper Stoever, Clerk, and Mary Catharine, his wife, Christopher Wegman, Inn-holder, and Eva Maria his wife, Philip Greenawalt, Inn-holder, and Margaretta his wife, Casper Schnelle, Shopkeeper and Sabina his wife, George Hock, Tanner, and Sophia his wife, Christian Gist, Blacksmith, and Sophia his wife, John Ulrich Schnelle, and Eva his wife, all of the Township of Lebanon, in the County of Lancaster, and Province of Pennsylvania, of *the one part*, and John Huber, John Rohrer, Jacob Smith and Abraham Weideman, Trustees and Wardens to and for the only use, purpose and benefit of the German Presbyterian Congregation, settled and established in the same place *of the other part*. Whereas, George Reynolds, of Lebanon, in the County of Lancaster, *Yeoman* by virtue of some Devises or Conveyances to him made, was lately seized and possessed of three certain contiguous tracts of Land in Lebanon, aforesaid, which said three contiguous Tracts of Land, or the better part thereof were by the said George Reynolds, and one George Stitz, the former owner and possessor thereof, laid out for a Town called

Lebanon, *And Whereas*, by virtue of several writs issuing out of the County Court of Common Pleas, at Lancaster, to the Sheriff of Lancaster County aforesaid, directed the above mentioned three contiguous Tracts of Land and Premises, and the rent charges issuing out of th^e said Town Lcts were seized and taken in execution by John Hay, Esquire, then High Sheriff of Lancaster County aforesaid, who sold the same with the Rents Issues and Profits thereof unto the said John Casper Stoever, Christopher Wegman, Philip Greenawalt, Casper Schnebele, George Hock, Christian Gish and John Ulrich Schnebele, and to their heirs and assigns forever, as in and by a Deed Roll, duly executed by the said Sheriff, and acknowledged in open court, the Fourth Day of November, Anno Domini, 1763, relation thereunto being had at large appears *Now this Indenture Witnesseth* that the said John Casper Stoever and Mary Catharine his wife, Christopher Wegman and Eva Maria his wife, Philip Greenawalt and Margaretta his wife, Casper Schnebele and Sabina his wife, George Hock and Sophia his wife, Christian Gish and Sophia his wife, John Ulrich Schnebele and Eva his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of Five Pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania, to them in hand paid by the said John Huber, John Rohrer, Jacob Smith and Abraham Wideman, at and before the execution of these presents, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, *have* and each of them *hath* granted and bargained, sold, released and confirmed, and by these presents, they the said John Casper Stoever and Mary Catharine his wife, Christopher Wegman and Eva Maria his wife, Philip Greenwalt and Margaretta his wife, Casper Schnebele and Sabina his wife, George Hock and Sophia his wife, Christian Gish and Sophia his wife, John Ulrich Schnebele and Eva his wife, Do and hereby each of them doth grant, bargain, sell, alien, demise, release and confirm unto the said John Huber, John Rohrer, Jacob Smith and Abraham Wideman, and the Survivors or Survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of such Survivor in Trust, to and for the only use, intent and benefit of the German Presbyterian Congregation aforesaid, and for no other use, intent and purpose whatsoever that certain Lot or piece of Ground, situate lying and being in the town of Lebanon aforesaid, containing in front on a street in the general plan of said Town, called Hill

Street, eight perches, and in depth to Strawberry Alley, twelve perches,
bounded on the South by said Street, and on the West by
on the North by
and on the East by
which

said lot in the plan aforesaid is 136. It being part of the above mentioned three contiguous Tracts of Land, *Together* with all and singular the Buildings and Improvements, Right, Liberties, Privileges, Hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever to the same, belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the Reversions and Remainders thereof, *and* all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Property, Possession, Claim and Demand whatsoever as well in Law as in Equity of them the said John Casper Stoever and Mary Catharine his wife, Christopher Wegman and Eva Maria his wife, Philip Greenwalt and Margaretta his wife, Casper Schnebele and Sabina his wife, George Hock and Sophia his wife, Christian Gish and Sophia his wife, John Ulrich Schnebele and Eva his wife, and every of them, of, in and to the same and every part and parcel thereof, *To have and to hold* the said Lot of Ground described as aforesaid, Hereditaments and all and singular the Premises hereby granted and released or meant mentioned, and intended so to be with the appurtenances unto the said John Huber, Jacob Smith and Abraham Wideman, and to the Survivors or Survivor of them, and the Heirs and Assigns of such Survivor, *Nevertheless to and for the only Use, Benefit and Behoof of all and every of the German Presbyterian Congregation, settled and established in that part of the country where the said granted premises is situate, lying and being and to and for no other Use, Intent and Purpose, forever yielding and paying therefore unto the said John Casper Stoever, Christopher Wegman, Philip Greenwalt, Casper Schnebele, George Hock, Christian Gish and John Ulrich Schnebele, their Heirs and Assigns, at the said Town of Lebanon, in the month of June, yearly, forever hereafter the rent of one Red Rose if the same shall be lawfully demanded, And* the said John Casper Stoever, Christopher Wegman, Philip Greenwalt, Casper Schnebele, George Hock, Christian Gish and John Ulrich Schnebele, for themselves severally and respectively and not jointly, nor the one for the other of them and for their

several and respective Heirs, *Do* covenant, promise, grant and agree to and with the said John Huber, John Rohrer, Jacob Smith and Abraham Wideman, Trustees as aforesaid, and Survivors or Survivor of them, and the Heirs and Assigns of such Survivor in Trust, to and for the Use, Intents and Purposes aforesaid, and their Successors in the said Trust forever, that they the said John Casper Stoever, Christopher Wegman, Philip Greenwalt, Casper Schnebele, George Hock, Christian Gish and John Ulrich Schnebele and their several and respective Heirs, the said described Lot of Ground Hereditaments and Premises hereby granted and released or mentioned, and intended so to be with the appurtenances unto the said John Huber, John Rohrer, Jacob Smith and Abraham Wideman in Trust as aforesaid, against the said John Casper Stoever, Christopher Wegman, Philip Greenwalt, Casper Schnebele, George Hock, Christian Gish and John Ulrich Schnebele and their several and respective heirs, and against all and every other person and persons whatsoever, lawfully claiming or to claim any Estate, Right, Title or Interest in the said Premises or any part thereof, by from or under them any or either of them, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these Presents, *In witness* whereof the said parties to these Presents have interchangeably set their hands and Seals hereunto dated the Day and Year first above written.

Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us,

JOHN HAY,

JOHN THORNE

DANIEL STRON (or STROW)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mary Catharine (her X mark) Stoever, | Sophia (her X mark) Hock, |
| Eva Maria (her X mark) Wegman, | Sophia (her X mark) Gish, |
| Margaretta (her X mark) Greenwalt, | Eva (her E mark) Schnebele, |
| Sabina (her Ea mark) Schnebele, | |
| | |

| |
|-------------------------------|
| John Casper Stoever, [s.s.] |
| Christopher Wegman, [s.s.] |
| Philip Greenwalt, [s.s.] |
| Casper Schnebele, [s.s.] |
| George Hock, [s.s.] |
| Christian Gish. [s.s.] |
| John Ulrich Schnebele, [s.s.] |

Before me, The Subscriber, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Lancaster, came the above named John Casper Stoever and Mary Catharine his wife, Christopher Wegman and Eva Maria his wife, Casper Schnebele and Sabina his wife, George Hock and Sophia his wife, Christian Gish and Sophia his wife, and John Ulrich Schneb.e and Eva his wife, and acknowledged the above written *Indenture* to be their act and deed, and desired that the same might be recorded as such according to law, the said Mary Catharine, Eva Maria, Margaretta, Sabina, Sophia, Sophia and Eva, whereunto freely consenting they being each of them of full age, and by me secretly and apart from their husbands examined. *In testimony* whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Fifth Day of August, A.D., 1765.

JOHN HAY [s. s.]

[L.S.] *Entered* in the office for Recording of Deeds in and for the County of Lancaster, in Book M., page 44, the Eleventh Day of July Anno Domini, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-six, Witness my hand and Seal of my office.

EDWARD SHIPPEN, Recorder

Accompanying this Deed or Indenture there is also the following receipt:—

Received the Day of the Date of the within written Indenture of and from the within named John Huber, John Rohrer, Jacob Smith and Abraham Wideman, the full sum of Five Pounds, it being the consideration within mentioned in full, received in the name and for each and every of the Grantors within mentioned, say received by me, John Casper Stoever.

Witnesses present at signing,

I. C. DEHAAS,

A True Copy of the Original.

WM. McCULLOUEH.

Recorded 783, No. — Dated August 1st, 1765

IN 1772, a dry stone wall was built around said lots at a cost of about \$130.00. Masons then worked for 50 cents a day, and laborers for 33 cents, with boarding rates at one shilling, (about 23 cents).

In 1773, the congregation already belonged to Soetus or Synod.

On the 8th of March, 1780, Philip Greenwalt and wife, in consideration of \$80.00, conveyed to Gottfried Eichelbner, Michael Krebs and Rudolph Kelker, Trustees of the congregation, the lot of ground on which the present Church and Sexton's House now stands. A parsonage for the use of the Pastor was purchased in 1783, by Gottfried Eichelbrener, Nicholas Weiss, John Tetweiler, John Bickel, Jacob Labsher and Henry Dubs, for the use of Lebanon, Jonestown and Hill Congregations.

From the very beginning German Services were doubtless held in the Church every two weeks. Certainly as far back as 1773. Since 1828 regular English services have been held. How often, however, does not appear from any accessible records. The Baptismal and Marriage records were carefully kept since 1764.



DEED OF PHILIP GREENWALT

TO

Gottfried Eichelbner and others for use of Presbyterian Congregation, 8th of March, 1780.

This Indenture, MADE on the Eighth Day of March, One Thousand (Seven) Hundred and Eighty, between Philip Greenwalt of Lebanon Township, in the County of Lancaster, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Esquire and Margaretta his wife, of the one part, and Gottfried Eichelbner, Michael Krebbs and Rudolph Kelker of the same place, Yeomen, Trustees and Wardens, to and for the only Use, Purpose and Benefit of the German Presbyterian Congregation, settled and established in the said Township of the other part, *Whereas*, the late Proprietaries of Pennsylvania, in and by a certain Patent, bearing date the Twenty-seventh day of May, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty-three, did grant and confirm unto George Stites, his heirs and assigns forever, Two Tracts of Land, situate in the Township and County aforesaid, which said Patent is recovered in the Rolls Office at Philadelphia, in Patent Book A, Vol. 17, page 304, and the said George Stites, by an Indenture bearing date the Nineteenth Day of January, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-one, recorded in the Office for Recording of Deeds, for the County of Lancaster, in Book G, Page 95, granted and conveyed the said Two Tracts of Land with the appurtenances unto George Reynolds, his heirs and assigns forever, *And Whereas*, the said George Reynolds and Elenor his wife, in and by an Indenture or Conveyance, bearing date the Twentieth Day of May, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-two, did grant and convey unto John Meyer, a certain Lot or Piece of Ground (part of the said Two Tracts of Land) situate in the Town of Lebanon, beginning at a post in front, on a street called Hill Street, and from thence four perches to a post, a corner of the Presbyterian Church Lot, and from thence along the said Church Lot, twelve perches in depth to a fifteen foot alley called Strawberry Alley, thence along the same four perches to a post, and thence along Chestnut Street 12 perches to the place of beginning, which said lot is known by the number of 34

in the general plan of the said Town, together with the appurtenances to hold to him the said John Meyer, his heirs and assigns forever, subject to the yearly rent and covenants in the said Indenture mentioned and reserved, *And Whereas* the said John Meyer, in and by an assignment, dated the 17th day of February, One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty-six, endorsed on the same Indenture, did grant, bargain, sell and confirm unto the said Philip Greenwalt, all that the above described Lot or piece of Ground, with the appurtenances to hold to him the said Philip Greenwalt, his heirs and assigns forever, as in and by the said recited Indenture, and Indorsement, relation thereunto being had at large, appears, *Now this Indenture Witnesseth*, that the said Philip Greenwalt and Margaretta his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of thirty pounds, lawful money of Pennsylvania, them or one of them in hand, well and truly paid by the said Gottfried Eichelbner, Michael Krebs and Rudolph Kelker, at and before the sealing of and delivery of these presents (the receipt and payment whereof are hereby acknowledged) have granted, bargained and sold, aliened, released and confirmed, and by these presents, they the said Philip Greenwalt and Margaretta his wife, do grant, bargain, sell, alien, release and confirm unto the said Gottfried Eichelbner, Michael Krebs and Rudolph Kelker, and the Survivors or Survivor of them and the heirs and assigns of such Survivor, *In Trust*, to and for the only use, intent and benefit of the German Presbyterian Congregation aforesaid, and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever, all that the above mentioned and described Lot of Ground, according to the distances, bounds and limits above set forth and particularly described, together with the *School House* and all other houses and buildings thereon erected, and being members and appurtenances whatsoever to the same, belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the Reversions and Remainders thereof, and all the Estate, Right, Title, Interest, Claim and Demand of him the said Philip Greenwalt and Margaretta his wife, of, in and to the same and every part and parcel thereof, *To have and to hold* the above described Lot or Piece of Ground, Hereditaments and Premises hereby granted and released (or mentioned or intended to be) with the appurtenances to the said Gottfried Eichelbner, Michael Krebs and Rudolph Kelker, and the Survivors and

Survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of such Survivor, nevertheless to and for the only use, benefit and behoof of all and every of the members of the German Presbyterian Congregation, settled in and near the said Town of Lebanon, and to and for no other use, intent or purpose forever, under and subject to the payment of the yearly rent now due and hereafter to become due and payable for the same, and the said Philip Greenwalt for himself and his heirs, doth covenant, promise and grant to and with the said Gottfried Eichelbner, Michael Krebbs and Rudolph Kelker and the Survivors and Survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of such Survivor in Trust, to and for the purpose aforesaid, and their Successors in the said trust forever, that he, the said Philip Greenwalt and his heirs, the above described Lot or Piece of Ground, Hereditaments and Premises hereby granted and released, or mentioned or intended so to be, with the appurtenances unto the said Gottfried Eichelbner, Michael Krebbs and Rudolph Kelker, their Successors in the Trust aforesaid, against him the said Philip Greenwalt and his heirs, and against all and every other person or persons, whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim, by from or under him, them or any of them shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents. *In witness* whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals, dated the Day and Year first above written.

Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us,

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| PHILIP GREENWALT, ✓ JOHN THOME. | Receipt here | Acknowl- edgements here |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|

PHILIP GREENWALT, [s.s.]
MARGARET (her X mark) GREENWALT

Received on the Day of the Date of the above written Indenture, of and from the above named Gottfried Eichelbner, Michael Krebbs and Rudolph Kelker, the sum of thirty pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania, being the consideration money above mentioned in full. I say received per me.

PHILIP GREENWALT.

Witnesses present at signing,

PHILIP GREENWALT, JR.,
JOHN THOME.

LANCASTER COUNTY, SS.:

Be it Remembered, That on the Thirteenth Day of April, Anno Domini, 1780, before me the Subscriber, one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas for the said County, came the above named Philip Greenwalt and Margaretta his wife, and acknowledged the above written Indenture to be their Act and Deed, and desire that the same may be recorded as such according to law. *In Testimony* whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the Day and Year aforesaid.

JOHN THOME, [s. s.]

SECOND PART

EARLY HISTORY FROM 1792 TO 1845

HERE seemed to be at this time a real fraternal feeling existing between these twin churches of the Protestant Reformation. It is certain that in those early days a very cordial relationship was had between the Reformed, Moravian and Lutheran Pastors. They were accustomed to meet at each others' houses for mutual conference and the study of God's word.

Feeling the need, and probably driven by necessity, the congregation started to build a new church, about 42 by 62 feet; It forms the body of the church as it now stands. June 26th, 1792, the corner-stone was laid in the presence of Rev. Ludwig Lupp, then pastor, and Rev. William Hendely, who preached the sermon from the words Genesis xxviii: 22,—“And this stone which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou givest me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”

Among other things the following was deposited in the corner-stone. It was written in German by the Rev. Ludwig Lupp:—“In the name of the Holy

Trinity, Amen. This corner-stone of the German Reformed was laid in a solemn and appropriate manner in the presence of the Rev. Hendel, minister of the German Reformed Church on the 26th of June, 1792.

The Pastor was the Rev. Ludwig Lupp; Elders, Philip Greenwalt and David Tice; Deacons, Henry Shaffner and Nicholas Dinges; Building Committee, Philip Greenwalt, John Gloninger, Anthony Kelker, Gottfried Eichelbner, George Bowman and Martin Imhoff.

To our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as the true foundation of the Church, we devote the edifice here to be erected, under the name of the Evangelical Reformed Congregation in Lebanon Township, Dauphin County. (This must be Lancaster County).

Beloved children and posterity, we deposit in this corner-stone a document or testimonial from which, should it ever come to light, it will be seen that the corner-stone of this Reformed Church was laid on the 26th of June, 1792, that thereby your souls, as well as our own, might be edified by the preaching of the blessed gospel according to the only foundation of the Apostles and Prophets. That your children may be admitted by baptism into God's covenant of Grace; be instructed in the blessed Gospel,—be admitted into full Communion with the Church, by Confirmation;

and with us partake of the Holy Sacrament of our Lord Jesus Christ, to our mutual edification and growth in grace.

God grant, that, in this important service and enterprise, we may have only in view the glorification of His holy name ; that it may be our earnest purpose and endeavour, as instruments in the hands of God to save and deliver you from spiritual and eternal death, and that you may obtain life and everlasting salvation. May you not only through the efforts and services of faithful ministers grow in the knowledge of the Gospel truths and of the duties of our holy religion, but may you also allow yourselves to be stimulated, and urged to the practical discharge of christian duty and grow in a constant experience of the saving and transforming power of divine truth. May you, beloved, and your posterity, in all coming time earnestly endeavour in the use of the divinely appointed means to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you may be fruitful branches in Christ the living vine, children of light, members of the mystical body, and living stones in God's Spiritual Zion, and so remain unto the end. If you thus prove faithful, you shall never want for comfort and consolation in your darkest hours of trial and temptation, for the gracious promises of our Heavenly

Father shall be yours; and when at last you shall be called to pass through the dark valley of the shadow of death, you shall fear no evil, for the Good Shepherd will be with you, to guard and comfort you with His rod and staff, and will conduct you safely into the Heavenly Jerusalem. Now the God of peace, which brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, through blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen."

—:o:—

PROGRAM OF CHILDREN'S SERVICE

This service was held on the Lord's Day, June 24th, preceding the laying of the corner-stone. Though there was as yet no Sunday School, yet we see that the Parish school was thus made to be a real part of the Congregation, and the children made to feel that they had also a great interest in the Church, which was being erected for the worship of God.

The program used came to us through the Hon. Rudolph Kelker, of Harrisburg, whose grandfather was Treasurer of the Church when building. Believing it may serve a good purpose now and hereafter, we feel that it should have a place in this history.

ZUM KNÆBCHEN FEST.

LITURGIST.

Kommt Kinder und laszt euch vom Kinder-freund Segnen,
 Er will euch so freundlich, so zärtlich begegnen,
 Wie ehmals da man Ihm die Kindlein darbrachte
 Die Er Seine Gnade gern thielhaftig machte.

KINDER.

Du Segnest so gern, Du Segnest so gern !

CHOR.

Herr wende Dich zu ihnen und sei ihnen gnädig
 Wie du pflegst zu thun denen die deinen Namen lieben,
 Lasz sie Dich suchen von ganzem Hertzen und Dich finden
 Lasz ihnen deine Gnade widerfahren; deine Huelse nach deinem
 Du erkennest was fur ein Gemæcht wir sind, [Wort.
 Du denkest daran dasz wir Staub sind.
 Lasz ihnen ganz gewisz seyn in deinem Wort;
 Und lasz kein Unrecht ueber sie herschen.
 Lasz dein Antlitz leuchten ueber jedes und lehre sie deine Rechte.
 Ihr Erbe lasz seyn, Herr, dasz sie deine Wege halten,
 Und Ihren Schatz, dasz sie deinen Willen thun,
 Deine Rechte sei ihr Lied im Hause ihrer Wohlfart;
 Setze sie zu oelzweigen in deinem Hause.
 Wie die Pfeile in der Hand eines Starken,
 Also mueszen Dir gerathen die jungen Kuaben.

KINDER.

Ach lasz auf deinen Versuehn !

SOLO.

Wie wohl ihr schon arme Kinder seyd,
 Voll Mängel, Elend, und Suendigkeit.
 Wird doch alle Gnade und all' Gut,
 Dasz ihr nun brauchet aus Jesu Blut
 Euch mitgetheilt
 Suchet Ihn immer von Hertzens Grund,
 Und macht auch heute mit Ihm den Bund,
 Ihr sein wollt seyn, und ihm auch bleiben
 So wird sein Geist zu allem treiben
 Was Ihn erfreu't.

CHOR.

Gib mir mein kind dein Herz Spricht der Herr, und lasz deine
 Augen meine Wege wohlgefallen.

LITURGIST.

Ach Mœchte jedes recht sein Glueck bedenken,
 Und sich dem Heiland ganz zu eigen schenken;
 Denn Er will euch mit seinen Augen leiten
 Durch alle Zeiten.

KINDER.

1. Deine segensreiche Yugend
 Unser Vorbild Jesu Christ!
 Huelf uns all zu solche Tugend,
 Die der deine æhnlich ist
2. Nimm Dir heute ganz aufs neue,
 Unser Geist, und Seel, und Leib;
 Gib dasz jedes ganz gedeihe,
 Und dein Eigenthum verbleib.

CHOR.

Kindlein bleibtet bei Ihm, dasz ihr nicht zu Schanden werdet vor
 Ihm in seiner Zukunft,
 Ihr seyd theuer erkauft darum preiszet Gott an eurem Leibe und
 Geiste welche sind Gottes.

LITURGIST UND GÆSTE.

Nun ihr seyd so theur erworben, Der Herr ist fuer euch gestorben,
 Ihr seyd mit seinem Blut erkauft, Darum gebt Ihm eure Herzen,
 Zum Lohn seiner Bitt're Schmertzen; In seinem Todt seyd ihr
 getauft.

Bringet Ihm auch jetzo hier, Lob, und Preisz, und Dank dasuer,
 Jedes Stimme,—so gut es kann,—Das Loblied an.

ALLE.

Der Herr hat Viel an uns gethan !

CHOR UND KINDER.

Oli, dasz doch jedes mit fröhlichem Geiste
 Dem Lammi dasz mit Blut unser Seelen erworben;
 Fuer Zeit und fuer Ewig, ganz hertzlich sich Weihe,
 Und alle Ihn preiszen Der fuer sie gestorben,
 Und alle Ihn preiszen Der fuer sie gestorben.

ALLE.

Dir Lob, und Preisz, und Ehr, und Macht
 Von uns Erlösten sei gebracht.

EARLY HISTORY

LEADER

Come, and be blessed by the Friend of the Children,
He will as kindly, as gently, receive you,
As when they brought the little ones to Him,
And he so gladly gave them his favor.

CHILDREN

Oh, Thou, so cheerfully, dost bless !

CHOIR

Lord, turn and be thou gracious unto them,
As Thou wilt, to all who love Thy name ;
May they seek with the heart and find Thee,
Let them find Thy favor and Thy help.
As by Thy word ; who our frame dost know,
And rememberest we are only dust,
Thy holy word let them secure'y trust,
And sin have no dominion over them :
Thy face upon them shine, and thy will
Alway be their blessed heritage,
And the keeping of Thy law their joy,
And Thy praise the burden of their song,
In the house of their inheritance.
As olive branches in Thy temple,
Like the arrows of the mighty ones,
Thus, let the children flourish before Thee.

CHILDREN

Oh yes, we praise His tender grace,
His reconciling grace we praise.

SOLO

Though you are only children, weak,
Needy, helpless and full of sin,
Yet His grace, and every needed good
For His blood so freely shed, will

He with you share.

Then always seek Him with the heart,
And make with Him this day a bond,
That you'll be His, and His remain :
Then, His Spirit, you will lead
For His pleasure

CHOIR

Thus saith the Lord, my child, give me thy heart,
And let Thine eyes, with joy, my way behold !

FROM 1792 TO 1845

LEADER

Oh, may each, on his salvation think,
And the heart, in full, with Jesus link ;
For the Lord, with watchful eye will guide
His own forever.

CHILDREN

Jesus Thy holy childhood ways,
Be the pattern all our days ;
Help us, in all things, ever be
Our blessed Saviour like to Thee !

Oh take, this day, to Thee, anew,
Our spirit, soul, and body too ;
Help each, more holiness to gain,
And thine forever to remain.

CHOIR

Children, be ye steadfast ever,
That you may never,
At His coming be confounded :
He bought you with His blood,
Honor, Thanks and Laud,
To the Christ so deeply wounded !

LEADER

Now ye are His, and His alone,
Who did for each of you atone,
And on the cross the price hath paid :
By baptism in his death you're laid
Therefore, give now, the Lord your heart,
A small return, for bitt'rest smart ;
Bring Him, also, here and now,
Honor, praise and holy vow ;
Let ev'ry happy heart; each devoted tongue
Speak out in Holy song.

ALL

The Lord for us great things hath done !

CHOIR AND CHILDREN

Oh, that a joyful song might rise
From all below—Above the skies,
To Him who once was crucified,
And is forever glorified.

ALL

Honor, glory, holy worth,
Be to Him who saved us given.

Amen.—*Translated by D. E. K.*

Over the door on west side of vestibule is this inscription :

HOCH DEUTSCHE REFORMIRTE KIRCHE NEU-
EINGERICHTET, A. D., 1847.

Over several windows on the West:

1st. From the North, "Lasset uns Ihn lieben; denn Er hat uns zuerst geliebet."—I John iv, 19.

2d. "Der vernuenftige Mensch lernet Gottes Wort gern, und wer die Weisheit lieb hat hoert gern."

3d. "Diesen Eckstein dieser Kirche is gelegt worden, den 26sten Juni, 1792."

"Herr lass deine Augen offen sein ueber dieses Haus Tag und Nacht. Hoere das Gebet deines Volks."—II Chron. 20 and 21.

4th. "Das Gesetz deines Mundes ist mir lieber denn viel Tausend stueck Gold and Silber."—Psa. cxix, 72.

5th. "Thut Busze und glaubet an das Evangelium."—Mark i, 15.

May 8th, 1796, the church was dedicated. Three sermons were preached by Revs. Becker, Pauli and Hendel. The building cost about \$6,500.00. At the dedication the collection amounted to \$378.65. At the corner-stone laying the offerings were \$89.77.

In the year 1806, the town of Lebanon had within the borough limits (as fixed in 1861) 165 dwelling

houses. 1 three-story, 85 two-story and 79 one-story. 4 brick, 18 stone, the remainder built of wood entirely. 2 Stone Churches, Reformed and Lutheran.

In the year 1809 the organ was bought at a cost of about \$1500.00. It was dedicated November 9th, 1809.

The present wall around the old grave-yard was built in 1816. The Steeple at the south end of the Church was erected in 1827, at a cost of about \$3000.00. Previous to this the two bells were hung in a belfry over the roof of the Church. Part of the Cemetery opposite the Church was bought in 1841, the remainder in 1848, the whole costing \$425.00.

The inside of the Church was remodeled in 1844, and the vestibule end on Strawberry Alley in 1847.

— :o: —

KELKER LETTER

HARRISBURG, March 24th, 1892.

Rev. & Dear Brother:

Yours soliciting information relative to Tabor Reformed Church, Lebanon, came to hand last evening.

My grandfather, Anthony Kelker, was the Treasurer of Tabor Reformed Church, Lebanon, in which you preach. I have in my possession the book in which he took receipts for all his disbursements for the work and materials done and furnished for the erection of the Church.

On the third page thereof is a receipt signed by Henry Harry, dated June 27th, 1792, for £2, 18 sh., 1½ d., for the brass plate and

engraving thereon, which was put into the corner stone. There is also fastened to the inside cover of the book a manuscript of Religious Exercises entitled, "Zum Knaebchen Fest, den 24stn Juni, 1792," which is antiphonal; (other records shows the Corner-stone as being laid June 26th. This therefore must have been used at a special children's service). From this I have supposed that the corner-stone was laid June 24th, 1792. There is a settlement recorded in the book in the hand write of old Judge John Gloninger, father of the late John W. Gloninger, M. D., dated April 14th, 1797, made by a committee consisting of Philip Greenawalt, Conrad Merch, Jacob Teiss, Martin Imhoff (?) and John Gloninger, from which it appears that the congregation owed Grandfather a balance of £ 102, 1 sh. and 7 d., the amount overpaid by him for the Church. Then follows nine receipts signed by Anthony Kelker, from May 28th, 1798 to February 21st 1800, for monies which he received on account of this balance aggregating £48, 3 sh. and 9 d., which left due to him £53, 17 s and 10 d. No doubt the old gentleman took this sum out in preaching, for there is no evidence that he ever received the same in money.

There is a receipt dated July 16th, 1792, signed by Jacob Karch for two shillings, the price of the receipt book. This "Karch" was no doubt the grandfather of Mr. Karch, Cashier of one of your Lebanon Banks. Christopher Uhler was the Carpenter and Builder, and John McFandien the Stone-mason, Conrad Wittmeyer furnished the sand stone "foot steps," Christian Beck did the gilding, etc., of the Pulpit, Philip Fisher the Schmidt arbeiter, John Rohrer made the locks.

Mr. Uhler's bill was £762, 13 sh. and 7 d. Tobias Greider furnished 252 wagon loads of Stone for 7 d. per load, in all, £7, 7 sh. Mc Fanden's Stone-mason's bill was £436, 0 sh., 1 d.

In my Grandfather's hand write there is a summary of payments, viz: Sundries which are embraced in the first three:

| | | £ | sh. | d. |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----|-----|----|
| Receipts, | - - - - - | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| Stone Cutters, | - - - - | 57 | 7 | 6 |
| Henry Harry, brass plate, | - | 2 | 18 | 1½ |
| Am Uhler, | - - - - | 762 | 13 | 7 |

| | | £ | sh. | d. |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|-------|
| Stone-mason, | - - - - | 436 | 0 | 1 |
| Am Nägel Schmidt, Harrisburg, | - | 7 | 11 | 3 |
| Am Reim, Harrisburg, | - | | 13 | 0 |
| Am Fastnacht, | - - - - | 11 | 13 | 0 |
| Am Conrad Ley, | - - - - | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| Am Reinöhl, | - - - - | 25 | 8 | 4 |
| Am Ege, | - - - - | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| Am Gloringer, | - - - - | 7 | 12 | 4 |
| Am Beck, | - - - - | | 10 | 0 |
| Am Peifher, | - - - - | 3 | 15 | 4 |
| Am Greiter, | - - - - | 7 | 7 | 0 |
| Am Rohrer, | - - - - | 7 | 10 | 6 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | | £ 1338 | 3 | 6 |

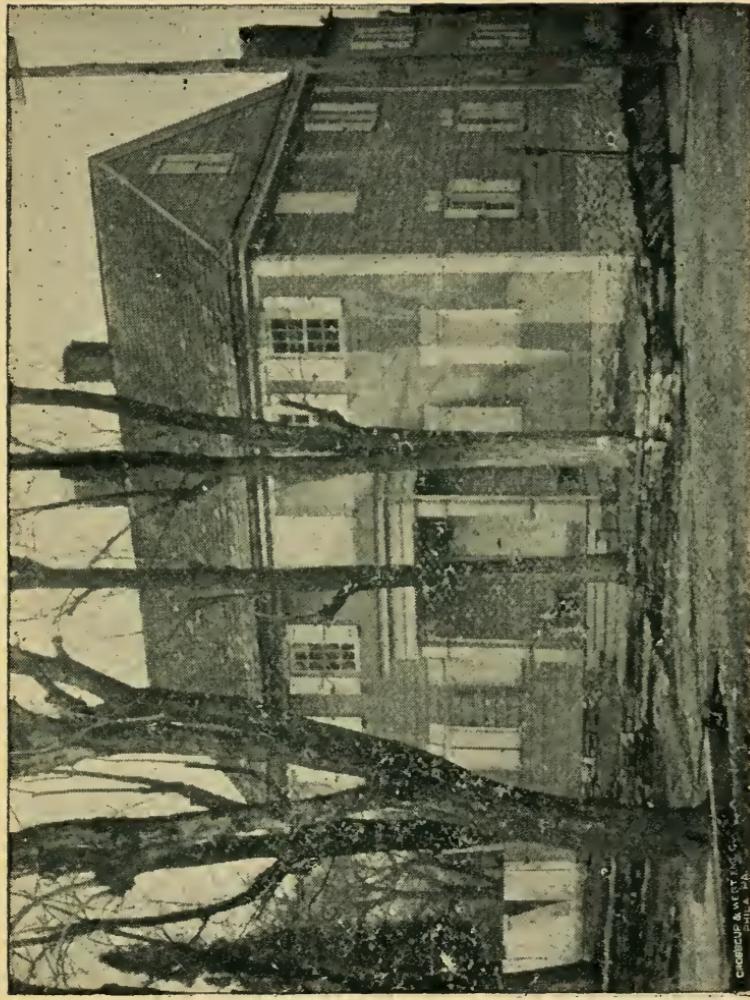
Peter Gloringer received £7, 12 sh., 4 d., for Black Cloth, Candlesticks and other articles for the New Church, (likely for trimming the Pulpit).

Grandfather retained it doubtless as a voucher for his disbursements. After his decease in 1812, it came into my father's hands, and when he departed this life in 1857 it came to me, and it has been carefully preserved as a family relic. My Father, Frederick Kelker, was confirmed in the Church which Grandfather helped to build. My Uncle John Kelker collected the money to buy the Organ. One of the most delightful communions I ever attended was in the Church at the Synod of 1860. I shall never forget it while I live.

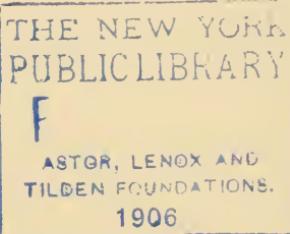
My Grandparents Anthony and Maria Magdalena Kelker, rest in the "God's Acre" in the rear of your Church.

Yours in Christian Bonds,

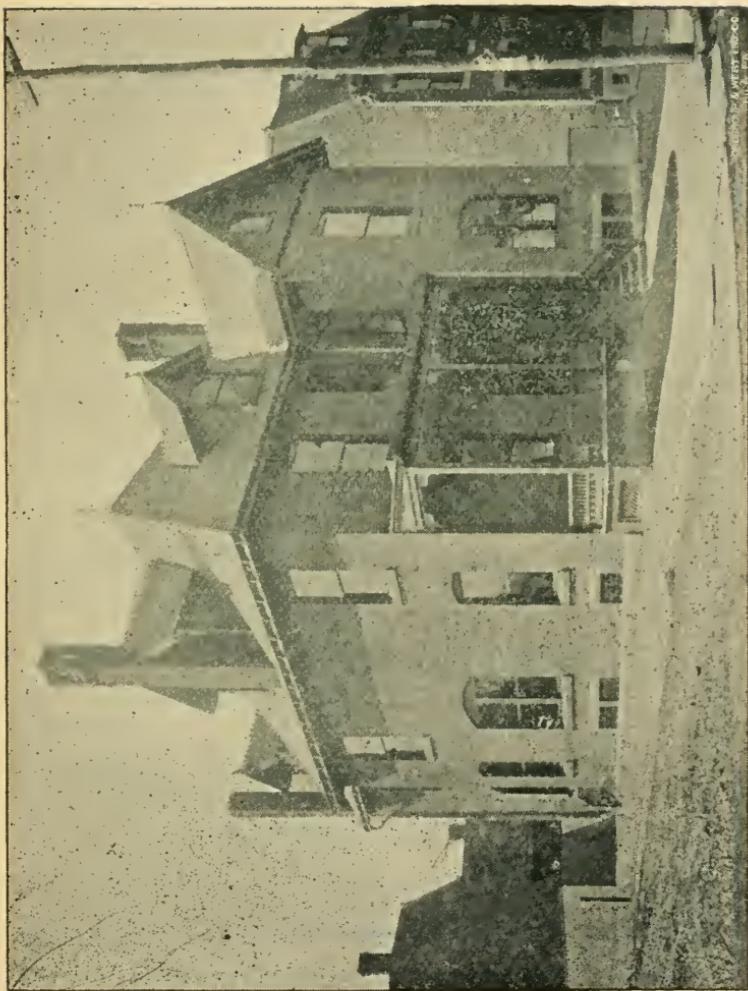
RUD. F. KELKER

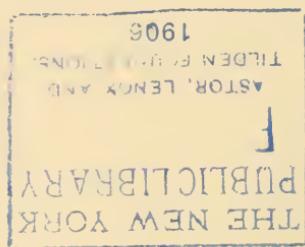


OLD PARSONAGE—Bought 1784



NEW PARSONAGE—Built 1890





THIRD PART

CHARTER AND HISTORY FROM 1845 TO 1892

IN 1845, the following charter of incorporation was granted by the Legislature of Pennsylvania.

AN ACT.

To incorporate the German Reformed Congregation, of the borough of Lebanon and its vicinity.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same. That the members of the German Reformed Congregation of the borough of Lebanon and its vicinity, be, and the same are hereby created and erected into one body, politic and corporate in deed and in law, by the name, style and title of "The German Reformed" Congregation of the borough of Lebanon and its vicinity, and by the same name shall have perpetual succession, and be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all courts of law and elsewhere, and shall be able and capable in law and in equity, to take, purchase, hold and receive, to them and their successors, in trust for, and to the use of the said congregation, lands, tenements,

goods and chattels, of whatsoever kind, nature or quality, real, personal or mixed, which are now, or shall, or may at any time hereafter, become the property of said congregation, or body corporate, by purchase, gift, grant, bargain sale, conveyance, devise, bequest or otherwise, from any person or persons whomsoever capable of making the same, and the same to grant, bargain, sell, improve or dispose of, for the use of the said congregation, as may be directed by a majority of such persons as are qualified to vote by the fourth section of this act, that may be present at a meeting to be held for that purpose; and generally adopt all such matters and things, as may be lawful to be done for the well being and due management of the said Church and Congregation, of which said meeting, at least two weeks notice shall be given from the pulpit, or in any public manner, the trustees or a majority of them shall direct: *Provided*, That the yearly value or income of the said estate shall not, at any time, exceed three thousand dollars.

SEC. 2. The business of the said corporation shall be conducted by five Trustees, of whom three shall be a quorum, who shall choose from among their number a President and Secretary, and appoint a Treasurer, who shall receive and account for all moneys coming into his hands, belonging to the corporation, and who shall be required by the Trustees, give security

for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in him, and shall have his accounts annually settled by the Trustees, and may appoint such other officers as the said Trustees, or a majority of them may, from time to time, deem necessary for the better government of the secular affairs of the said congregation, but no compensation shall be allowed to such officers, unless sanctioned by a majority of the members of the congregation entitled to vote, agreeably to the fourth section of this act, present at a meeting thereof.

SEC. 3. The following named persons shall be Trustees until others are, or shall be elected, as hereinafter provided, viz: Jacob Arndt, Leonard Greenawalt, Christopher Reigert, Philip Shaak, Senior, and John W. Gloninger, to continue in office until the first day of January, Anno Domini, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-six, on which day, except when it occurs on the Sabbath, and then on the succeeding day, the male members of the said congregation, qualified to vote by the fourth section of this act, shall elect five persons to serve as Trustees, one of whom shall serve five years, one four years, one three years, one two years, and one for one year; the term of service to be designated by the electors on their ballots, and their places respectively shall be supplied at the annual election, to be held for that purpose on that day, every year thereafter by the election of one

person to serve for five years; *Provided*, No person shall be eligible as Trustee unless he is a citizen of this Commonwealth, and is a member of the German Reformed Church by confirmation, according to the Constitution of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, and who shall have paid his contribution towards the discharge of the annual expenses of the congregation, according to his ability, within one year, and *Provided further*, if the congregation neglect, on the day of the annual election, to hold their election as is herein directed, the said corporation shall not be dissolved, but a majority of the Trustees remaining in office may appoint any subsequent time, not exceeding one month, at which the election may be held to supply said vacancies, or such as may occur by death or otherwise, the time and place of which, at least two weeks notice to the congregation shall be given, by announcement from the pulpit, or in any other public manner a majority of the remaining Trustees may direct. *And Provided further*, In case the Trustees shall neglect or refuse to call meetings, or hold elections as is directed in this act, then ten members entitled to vote, agreeably to the fourth section of this act, may call such meetings for the transaction of business stated, or for the purpose of holding such elections, by giving

two weeks notice of the time and place thereof, except in the dismissal of the Pastor, or any officer, when twenty members by confirmation, according to the Constitution of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, and who shall have respectively contributed to the discharge of the Annual expenses of the Congregation, according to their ability, within one year, shall be necessary to call a meeting for that purpose.

SEC. 4. Any male member of the Congregation by confirmation according to the Constitution of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, or any contributing member, who is not a member of another congregation, and who shall have paid towards the discharge of the yearly expenses of the Congregation, according to his ability, within one year, and no others, shall be entitled to vote at the elections or meetings of the said congregation; of all which elections, at least two weeks notice shall be given by announcement from the pulpit, or in any other public manner a majority of the Trustees may direct, except such meetings or elections as are otherwise provided for in this act.

SEC. 5. The Consistory shall be composed of the Pastor, for the time being, four Elders and four Deacons,

of whom two Elders and two Deacons to serve for two years shall be elected at the annual election to be held by the corporation, on the first day of January in every year, except when it occurs on the Sabbath, and then on the succeeding day, and of whom five shall be a quorum, who shall choose from among their number a President and a Secretary: *Provided*, That in case of vacancy by death or otherwise among the Elders and Deacons, a majority of the male members of the Congregation present, at a meeting to be convened for the purpose, by the Trustees, agreeably to the fourth Section of this Act, may elect a person or persons to supply the same, until the next election: *Provided, further*, That no one shall be elected an Elder or Deacon, who is not a confirmed member of the German Reformed Church, or who has not been publicly admitted to membership; and such members only as are qualified to vote for Pastor, agreeably to the sixth Section of this Act, shall be entitled to vote for Elders and Deacons: *And Provided further*, That the present Elders and Deacons shall continue in office for the time for which they have been elected.

SEC. 6. The Pastor of the Congregation, who must be a member of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States, shall be invited by the Consistory or a majority of them, or upon their neglect or refusal, by a majority of the male members

qualified to vote for Pastor, who may be present at a meeting to be held for that purpose, notice of the time and place of which, not exceeding two weeks, shall be given; and the Pastor shall be elected by a majority of the male members, by confirmation, according to the Constitution of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, and who shall have respectively contributed within one year, according to their ability, toward the annual expenses of the congregation, and may be present at a meeting to be held for that purpose, after two weeks notice given as directed in the fourth Section of this Act: *And it is Provided*, That the Bible and Heidelberg Catechism, or an extract from it, authorized by the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States, shall be used by the Pastor in the instruction of the youth.

SEC. 7. The Pastor of the Congregation or any officer thereof, may be discharged from his office by a majority of the male members by confirmation, according to the Constitution of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States, or by having been publicly admitted to membership, and who shall have respectively contributed within one year, according to their ability, towards the annual expenses of the Congregation, and may be present at a meeting to be held for that purpose, and to be called by the

Consistory, upon the written request, stating the object and design to be for that purpose, of twenty members qualified as aforesaid, at which meeting the vote shall be taken by ballot, by three members appointed by the members present entitled to vote, and two weeks notice of the time and place of such meeting shall be given by announcement from the pulpit, or in any other public manner, *Provided*, In case of absence or neglect or refusal of the Consistory to call such meeting, then twenty members qualified as aforesaid, shall have the right to call the same, giving at least two weeks public notice thereof.

SEC. 8. The Trustees and their successors, or a majority of them, shall have power at all times to adopt, alter, amend, and enforce such rules for the discipline of the members of the Congregation as shall be sanctioned by two-thirds of the members present, at a meeting to be held, of which two weeks notice shall be given, agreeably to the directions of the fourth Section of this Act: *Provided*, That nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to prevent the said Trustees or their successors from expelling any member, according to the Constitution of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States, and by such expulsion, depriving him or her of all rights and privileges hereby granted.

SEC. 9. The said Trustees and their Successors, or a majority of them shall have full power to enact and enforce such By-laws and Ordinances for their own government, and for the regulation and transaction of the secular business of said corporation, as shall be sanctioned by a majority of the members of the congregation present, at a meeting to be held agreeably to the directions of the fourth Section of this Act; and to make, use, and have a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at pleasure; and shall have power also to change the time of holding the general election, if the same shall be deemed advisable by a majority of the members qualified to vote, present at a meeting convened agreeably to the directions of the fourth Section of this Act: *Provided*, That the said Trustees or their Successors, shall not contract any debt or debts exceeding twenty dollars, or in anywise encumber the real estate belonging to the Congregation, without the consent of a majority of the male members thereof, entitled to vote as aforesaid, present at a meeting to be convened for the purpose, by the Trustees or a majority of them, of the time and place of which, at least two weeks notice shall be given by announcement from the pulpit, or in any other public manner: *Provided further*, That the said rules and by-laws and ordinances, and all acts of the said Trustees, framed, enacted and promulgated, shall not be

contrary to this Charter, nor to the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth or of the United States.

*Signed, FINDLEY PATTERSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives*

*Signed, WILLIAM P. WILCOX,
Speaker of the Senate*

Approved the Twenty-seventh Day of March, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-five. *Signed, FRO. R. SHUNK*

—:o:—

ON the 24th of May, 1845, according to announcement, and agreeably to the provisions of the Charter, the Congregation assembled in the lecture-room of the Church. At this meeting the charter was formally accepted, and the following, among other recommendations from the Board of Trustees were unanimously adopted :

1. The discipline of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States, except where it may be contrary to the Charter of the "German Reformed Congregation of the borough of Lebanon and its vicinity."
2. The management of the spiritual affairs of the Congregation shall reside in the Consistory.
3. The Consistory shall meet at least every three months, and in all matters relating to the spiritual welfare and prosperity of the Congregation, it shall be the duty of the Pastor to consult the Consistory.

4. The management of the Sabbath School shall be placed in the hands of the Superintendent and Consistory, and the officers of said school shall be appointed by the Consistory. (According to resolution of Consistory the officers of the Sabbath School are to be chosen or appointed by the teachers).

5. Persons, whether members or not, who have not contributed towards the discharge of the annual expenses of the Congregation, according to their ability, within one year, shall have no right to bury their dead in the graveyard of said Congregation, nor shall such persons themselves be buried therein, except upon application first made to the Trustees, and such sum of money be paid as they may determine according to circumstances, but in no case shall a less sum than two dollars be demanded and paid for the privilege.

6. The family pew system was adopted at the English Services.

7. The proceeds of the old bell were applied to the purchase of German and English religious books for the use of the Congregation.

8. *Whereas*, It is conceived to be an imperative religious duty, that the members constituting a congregation should not permit any of their poor and destitute members to suffer from the want of the necessities of life. We therefore recommend, that, at

least, once a year, a sermon be preached on the subject both in the German and English language, and a collection taken up expressly for their benefit, and applied by the Consistory in such manner as they may consider proper and necessary.

The Board of Trustees appointed Christopher Reichert, President, and John W. Gloninger, Secretary. Jacob Mark was made Treasurer.

In the minutes of the Board of Trustees, November 14th, 1846, before the drawing of the blocks in the new cemetery, opposite the Church, we find this Action. "It is required that the person holding a block in the Cemetery . . . shall annually pay towards the discharge of the yearly expenses of the Congregation, according to ability."

In 1852, the Jonestown Congregation conveyed its interest in the parsonage to the Church in Lebanon.

According to the minutes of January 1st, 1852, "in view of the increasing prevalence of the English language, the Congregation resolved to take steps to have at least one English Sermon preached on each Lord's Day, from the 1st of April, 1846." In pursuance of this Action, notice was given to the Annville Congregation of the desire to have the Pastor cease his ministrations among them from and after April 1st, 1846.

In 1857, John W. Gloninger and wife, conveyed a lot of ground at the turn-pike, west of town, for a Cemetery. During the year 1860, sixty-eight persons, 26 males, 32 females were dismissed for the purpose of organizing the St. John's (2d) Reformed Church of Lebanon. In regard to this we quote part of the Pastor's report made to the Congregation January 1st, 1861. "It is proper to note in this report, the interesting fact, that on the 18th of October last (1860), the new St. John's Reformed Church of this place was dedicated to the service of the Triune God. At the request of the officers of said Church, the Pastor of the First Reformed Church performed the service of Consecration. The Synod of the Reformed Church, in session in the Church at that time, on invitation, attended the dedication in a body.

The installation of the Pastor elect, the Rev. Henry Harbaugh, D. D., took place on the evening of the same day. The Rev. Henry Wagner preached the sermon, and the Pastor of the First Reformed Church performed the service of installation, assisted by the Rev. C. F. McCaully."

It is also due to history, to say here, that in the erection of this Church, the First Reformed Church, not only gave St. John's sympathy, but showed its good will by liberally aiding with their means the accomplishment of the end thus reached.

In 1864, at the Annual meeting of Lebanon Classis, assembled in Annville, the First Church Lebanon was constituted a charge by itself, and the Hill Church was united with Annville, Campbellstown and Palmyra. From the First of October, 1864, the Pastor therefore served in this congregation exclusively.

Steps were at once taken to gather the money to pay the Hill Church the sum of \$600.00 agreed on as the amount of their interest in the parsonage, and which interest was duly conveyed to the congregation of the First Church, Lebanon. The effort was very successful, as there was \$806.76 collected, which was \$206.76 more than was needed. From the Congregational minutes it appears that much of this success was due to the personal efforts of the Pastor, Rev. F. W. Kremer, D. D.

In 1869 the Pastor's salary was made \$1,200.00 with use of parsonage. It had already been several times increased. From time to time we find the Pastor formally recognizing the good will and generosity of his people for valuable gifts bestowed on him, showing how warm the place he had found in their hearts. The Lecture-room of the Church was changed and made more convenient in 1872. The same year Tabor Chapel was built at a cost of——. It was enlarged and altered again in 1890, so as to give a separate room, seating about 130 children, to be used as an

Infant Department proper; also a room capable of seating sixty (60) grown persons, which is now used for the Pastor's Class.

The corner-stone of the St. Paul's Church at Bismark was laid in July 1st, 1877. The services were conducted by Drs. Johnson and George Wolf, the Pastor Rev. F. W. Kremer, D. D., and his son Leighton. The Church was dedicated December 2d. Pastors present and participating, Rev. Drs. C. H. Leinbach, T. S. Johnson, J. E. Hiester, F. W. Kremer and his son. The same day a Sunday School was organized with 103 enrolled. The Congregation was regularly organized December 28th, 1879. Number of members dismissed from the First Church, Lebanon, to Bismark was eighty-six. St. Paul's was connected with the Schaefferstown charge, probably in 1881.

The above building enterprise was no doubt stimulated by the generous liberality of ex-elder Joseph Bowman, who for this purpose had conveyed to Cyrus R. Lantz, Esq., a dwelling on South Tenth Street. This same brother at the same time conveyed the dwelling next to the above, for the purpose of aiding in the erection of a Chapel in North Lebanon.

During the years 1879 and 1880, a movement was made in the direction of starting a New Church enterprise in the northern part of the city. Afterwards a

Sunday-school was opened in the U. B. Aid Building, Ninth and the Lebanon Valley Railroad.

In December, 1884, at a special meeting of the congregation, it was resolved to open a Sunday-school in the northern part of the city, in the Spring of 1885. The Mission thus established was called "St. Mark's Mission School of the First Reformed Church, Lebanon, Pa."

January 13th, 1885, an agreement was entered into between Reinoehl and Meily, and E. D. Krall, one of a committee on behalf of the First Reformed Church, for the purchase of a lot at Eighth and Mifflin Streets, 100 feet on Eighth Street, and 150 feet on Mifflin, for the sum of Three Thousand (\$3,000.00) Dollars. The action was ratified and the Trustees directed to complete the purchase. The congregation also authorized the Trustees to proceed in doing what might be necessary for the erection of a brick structure, suitable for Sunday-school and other religious services.

On the 31st of October, 1885, a third bell in possession of the First Church was donated for use at St. Marks. On Sunday the 19th of July, the Cornerstone was laid, and on the 13th of December 1885, the Chapel was dedicated by the Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kremer, who preached in German. Rev. W. C. Schaeffer preached an English Sermon.

In the afternoon a Sunday-school meeting was addressed by the Pastor, Rev. T. S. Johnson, D. D., Mr. Jos. L. Lemberger and others. In the evening Rev. G. B. Resser of St. John's Church occupied the pulpit. At this time the Sunday-school already numbered 200. Of course the teaching force came from the mother Church, and no doubt also many of the scholars.

In 1885, the ground known as the Gloninger Cemetery was sold to the Cornwall and Lebanon R. R. Co., for \$2,000.00. Of this amount \$912.82, with \$100 known as the John R. Smith legacy, was loaned to St. Marks, bearing interest at 6 per cent. \$400 devoted to the benefit of No. 1 Cemetery, and \$330.53 the balance, after paying necessary expenses of removing dead, etc., was devoted to the use of the Sunday-school library, in accordance with the wishes of the donor of said lot, the Hon. J. W. Gloninger.

On the 15th of May, 1887, the St. Marks Congregation was duly organized. Up to this date 166 persons were dismissed from the First Church for the purpose of joining St. Marks.

At the congregational meeting in January, 1888, a request was made for the organization of persons residing near Templeman's Chapel, and being members of the First Reformed Church, into a congregation to worship in said chapel. In May of this year

(1888) the organization was effected. The organization though small, took again a number, probably 25 or 30, from the membership of the Mother Church of Lebanon and vicinity. Thus the fourth Church was launched under favorable circumstances, and not only with the good will, but with the liberal material aid of the First Church, and by giving at the very beginning about 350 of its most active members to constitute these Churches. Since then many others have gone out from us and become members of these Congregations. In January of this year (1892) a deed was made to the Pastor, in trust for the Sunday-school Association of the Church, of a lot in East Lebanon, at Fourth Avenue and Weidman Street, on which we hope that soon a Sunday-school building may be erected, and in the near future the fifth child of this Church may come into vigorous being.

During the summer and winter of 1890, a commodious new parsonage was erected on the site, where for over a hundred years the old had stood, part of the ground having been first sold off. This building situated at the south-west corner of Spring and Chestnut Street, is an honor to the congregation, and cost, exclusive of the ground, about \$5,500.00.

Note (A). Among those who have been in the earlier generations prominent in this community, the following are some of the names of such as were identified

with the History of the First Reformed Church: Gloninger, Greenwalt, Bucher, Hiester, Killinger, Bowman, Lineaweafer, Eichelberner, Miller, Rohrer, Karch, Krause, Rauch, Brubaker, Miller, Shaak, Ebür, Reichert, Huber, Tice, (Deisz) Smith, Wideman, Kelker, etc.

Note (B). For some years previous to the year 1861, a female prayer meeting was in vigorous existence, the ladies meeting from house to house. In this band were found the wives and daughters of leading members of the Congregation. Possibly here is where the "Female Benevolent Society" had its origin. This was a band of earnest women who solicited monies for the benevolent cause of the Church, outside of what was contributed through the Sunday-school. It continued until 1890, and has a creditable record for good work.

A Mite Society has been in existence for 10 years. The following is the statement for 1891:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE MITE SOCIETY OF FIRST REFORMED CONGREGATION:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Balance in Treasury, January 1st, 1891, | \$ 17 57 |
| Received during the year, | 238 49 |
| Loan called in about April 1st, | 300 00 |
| Interest on same, | 18 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Amount forward, | \$574 06 |

| | Amount brought forward, | \$574 06 |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1891, Paid out during year. | | |
| January 9—Rauch & Bro., Carpet Lining and Crash, | \$ 17 96 | |
| January 23—F. W. Frost, Blank Book, . . . | 1 00 | |
| February 19—E. K. Woelfly, Sewing and Lay- ing Carpet, | 8 14 | |
| April 1—B. F. Gingrich, Laying Carpet, . . . | 1 50 | |
| April 3—Rauch & Bro., Carpet for Par- sonage, | 181 94 | |
| July 8—Reinhard & Sharp, Printing State- ments, | 2 00 | <u>\$212 54</u> |
| | | <u>\$361 52</u> |
| 10 Shares Building Association, 1 year, | | 120 00 |
| | | <u>\$241 52</u> |
| Balance in Treasury, | | |

In all the Mite Society has gathered over \$1,500, which has been devoted from year to year in about the same way as appears in the above statement.

Money collected and paid Rauch & Bro.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Muslin and Blankets for Orphan's Home | \$9 44 |
| Also for Flowers, etc., Mrs Dr. Bucher, | 2 88 |
| | <u>\$12 32</u> |

FOURTH PART

SHORT SKETCHES OF THE PASTORS

REV CONRAD TEMPLEMAN, was born in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1687. He learned the trade of a tailor. He received a good German education, and possibly had some advantages from and in the University of his native place. Came to America in 1727, and located in what is now South Lebanon Township, where he took up 200 acres of land. He taught school, and in those days of the scarcity of regular ministers, he preached in the neighborhood from the first. In 1844 we find him acting as Pastor of the "Hill Church" as well as caring no doubt for the flock at "Grubben Church."

In 1747, Schlatter visited him in his home, and found him now about 60 years old: "A man of correct views, quiet and peaceable in his spirit, by which he has won the love and respect of the community."

On Schlatter's recommendation, the Synod of Holland directed that "the old man should be ordained." Besides Grubben and Hill, he labored in Swatara, and recorded some baptisms at Jonestown as early as 1745.

The "Coetal" minutes of 1760, say that then he was "stone blind" and only seldom preached in the churches, but still held services in his house. He died about 1761, aged 74 years.

* * *

Rev. Frederick Miller seems to have been the Pastor in 1762, the year when the First Church in Lebanon was built on the ground given by George Stites.

* * *

Rev. William Story,* served the congregation from 1763-68. He was born at Herborn, in Germany, and studied there. Came over with Schlatter in 1752. Pastor at Tulpehocken, 1752-55; Philadelphia 1755-56; Lancaster 1758-63. He went to Leyden about 1772, and studied medicine. When he returned he practiced medicine and sometimes preached from 1773-1801. In the latter year he died at Lebanon, Pa.

* * *

In the year 1768, the Rev. John Conrad Bucher, became Pastor. He was born at Schaffhausen, Switzerland, June 10th, 1730. Studied at St. Gall, Basel, Goettingen and Marburg. Came to America in 1756, and entered the British Military Service. About 1763 he resigned his commission and became a minister of

*We are indebted to the *Manual of the Reformed Church* by Dr. Dubs, for many facts in this sketch.

the gospel. Ordained by Coetus, was Royal Chaplain, Pastor at Carlisle, etc., about 1763-68. He founded many Churches. He recorded 347 baptisms in the Church Book.

* * *

On the morning of the 15th of August, 1780, he had gone to Annville to attend a marriage. In the midst of these joyous nuptials, he suddenly died. "It was at first proposed to convey his body decently in a vehicle to Lebanon. But from a nice sense, and in the spirit of deep affection and high regard for their deceased Pastor, they spread a bier, on which he was reverently laid, and delicately covered; and in this way "devout men" bore him on their shoulders to Lebanon."—*Fathers of the Reformed Church.*

* * *

Rev. John William Runkel, born Oberengelheim, Palatinate, April 28th, 1749; licensed in 1777, ordained 1778. Performed much missionary work and labored in a number of charges. He was Pastor at Lebanon from November 1780 to November 1784. Recorded 78 baptisms. He died in Gettysburg, November 5th, 1832, in the 84th year of his age.

* * *

It appears from the minutes of the Synod, held in Reading, in 1785, that Rev. Andrew Lorentz should

supply the congregation with Tulpehoekken until a regular Pastor could be had. He was sometimes called the Swiss Preacher. Recorded 14 baptisms from February 14th, 1785 to August 1786. He afterwards again returned to Switzerland.

* * *

In 1786 Rev. Ludwig Lupp who was born in Germany, January 7th, 1733, became the Pastor. He received a fair education. Taught school after he came to this country, and assisted in holding meetings for the reading of the scriptures and sermons, for prayer and exhortation in private houses, and soon began to preach in a regular way. When he was received into Coetus and ordained is not known. He was however probably considerably advanced in years when ordained. He had preached at "Blaser's Church" near Elizabethtown, at Manheim, Maytown and Rapho, as early as 1785 and 1791. He recorded 382 baptisms. He died June 28th, 1798, aged 65 years and 5 months. He was buried on the 30th, Rev. William Hendel preaching the sermon from the words in Hebrews iv, 1, and Rev. Mr. Kurtz spoke on Hebrews xiii, 17, exhorting the people not to forget the words of their Pastor. He was Pastor for 12 years. Hebron Diary speaks well of him, and among other things the following note is made by the then Moravian Pastor.

"June 11th, 1791, went early to town to attend by an invitation, Rev. Lupp's confirmation of 50 children. First there was a preparatory sermon, then were the children twice catechised (questions as to their knowledge and fitness) after which the Lord's Supper was celebrated. There was at these solemn services, which continued (6) six hours, a general loud weeping in the Church, and the young hearts were quite carried away." The same diary also says that Rev. Lupp confirmed 70 young persons, June 10th, 1797.

* * *

Rev. William Hiester, Pastor from 1800 to 1828, was born in Berne Township, Berks Co., Pa., November 11th, 1770. He was the youngest of seven children. Learned the trade of Carpenter, and at the same time prepared for future study. In 1796 he studied theology with Rev. Daniel Wagner, at York, Pa., and Greek under the Lutheran minister there. April 30th, 1798 he was examined by the Synod at Lancaster, and was given permission to act as Catechist in the Donegal Church. He served them one year, when on petition of the congregation he was ordained. At the Synod in May, 1800, he received a call to the Church at Lebanon, which he accepted. In 1808 he relinquished his work in Lancaster Co.

From 1803 to the time of his death, he solemnized 874 marriages. Died February 8th, 1828, aged 57 years, 2 months and 28 days. He served as Pastor 28 years, having in charge seven congregations. On the 11th, his funeral was attended by a large number of people. Rev. William Hendel preached from Deuteronomy xxxi, 16. "And the Lord said unto Moses, behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers."

He is often mentioned in the Hebron Diary, and highly spoken of. Among other things it says "July 16th, 1800, visited the Rev. Hiester. He is a dear man, who has the welfare of souls at heart. 1802, June 5th, attended with pleasure at the confirmation of more than 40 young persons in the Reformed Church. The fatherly admonitions of the Rev. Hiester seemed to make a deep impression on old and young."

* * *

In the year 1828, Rev. Henry Kroh became Pastor. He resigned in 1835, after a pastorate of about 7 years. He recorded 248 baptisms, and solemnized 171 marriages.

He was born near Womelsdorf, Berks Co., Pa., June 17th, 1799. His preceptor was Rev. Johnathan Helffenstein, licensed and ordained by Synod in 1824; from 1724 to 1728 served congregations in Virginia and Maryland. After leaving Lebanon, he labored in

Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Went to California in 1849, and died at Stockton, December 15th, 1869, in his seventy-first year.

* * *

Rev. Henry Wagner was called in 1835. He was born in 1835. He was born in Berks Co., Pa., April 3d, 1803. Studied in Theological Seminary at Carlisle 1828. Ordained by the Synod in 1828. Pastor at Wilton, Turbutville, Paradise, etc., 1828-35; Lebanon 1835-51; McConnellsburg, 1851-53; Mercersburg, 1853-56; Orwigsburg, etc., 1856-65. Died in Lebanon, May 25th, 1869. His widow still survives in her 83d year. His entries in the Church Records are 502 baptisms and 382 marriages. The fruits of his ministry are still to be found in the earnest spirit and devotion of those who came under his ministry.

* * *

Rev. F. W. Kremer, D. D., whose memory fresh and fragrant, and whose long and exceedingly successful Pastorate is so full of good works, was called to take charge of this field on the 27th day of January, and entered on the duties of the same April 1st of 1851. The charge was then composed of "Annville," "Hill Church" and Lebanon.

Franklin William Kremer was born in the village of Washington, Lancaster Co., November 16th, 1816.

After attending school in the neighborhood, he went to the Academy at York, Pa., under the principalship of Rev. Stephen Boyer. For one year and a half he studied in the grammar school of Marshall College, when he entered the college proper and graduated September 27th, 1843. Studied Theology under Drs. Nevin and Schaff at Mercersburg. His first charge was Grindstone Hill, near Chambersburg, Pa., whence he came to Lebanon.

While conducting the funeral cortege of Mrs. Samuel Heilman to the Hill Church, he was suddenly translated to his reward in heaven, on the morning of the 14th of June, 1889, his horse and carriage being struck by a fast express on the Lebanon Valley Rail Road, at a crossing near the Hill Church. When thus taken away, he had reached the age of 72 years, 6 months, 28 days. The best testimonial to his more than thirty-eight years of ministry in Tabor Reformed Church, is the history of the Congregation from 1851-89. Here are the stones that compose his monument, cemented in the memory by his devotion and zeal. His name and life have found lasting place in the hearts of those who so long enjoyed his faithful ministry. Nor was his influence merely local. He was respected and honored by the whole Church in whose bosom he laboured. He was a frequent delegate to her ecclesiastical bodies, and took an

active part in all that would advance her interests. During his ministry the records show 3245 baptisms, 1754 confirmations, 1247 marriages, and 1647 funerals.

* * *

The present Pastor was born at Hummelstown, Dauphin County, Pa., September 25th, 1837. After attending the common schools of his native village and a select school at Stouchsburg, Pennsylvania, under William H. Seibert, he went to the preparatory schools of Franklin and Marshall College at Lancaster in 1853 and 1854 and at Gettysburg, 1854 and 1855. In the Fall of 1855 he entered Franklin and Marshall College, and graduated in July, 1859. Studied Theology at Mercersburg under Drs. Schaff and B. Wolf; was licensed by Lancaster Classis in 1861, and ordained by Zion's Classis in the same year. Served Zion's charge, Perry County, Pa., three years and a half, and Watson Run charge, Crawford County, Pa., for fifteen months. In April 1867, he went to Philadelphia and organized Trinity Reformed Church. After more than twenty-two (22) years of labor there, on the 13th of October, 1889, he entered on his work in this old congregation.

The installation was conducted by Rev. O. P. Steckel, preaching in German, Rev. D. U. Wolf in English, and Rev. Geo. B. Resser reading the Installation Service. Thus open the pages of a new pastorate.

What may be written on it only God knows. But in this we take courage, Christ has said to his servants, "Lo ! I am with you always, even to the end."

SPECIAL NOTE.—On the old Church yard are buried the following ministers of the Reformed Church: Philip Gloninger, J. Conrad Bucher, Ludwig Lupp and William Hiester. On the cemetery opposite are buried the remains of Rev. F. W. Kremer, D. D.

FIFTH PART

PAROCHIAL AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

OUR fathers heartily believed in the value of an education, but this, as ever livingly joined with moral and spiritual training. So then with our churches, of the last and earlier half of this century, we usually find the school house, and the schoolmaster, who was also, generally chorister, and was second in dignity only to the Pastor.

In 1773, already there was such a school in connection with Tabor Reformed Church as in that year the item of the expense of 40 cents for a bucket and tincup for the school-house. The school-house is also mentioned in the deed of Philip Greenwalt. The school was frequently remembered in the services on the Lord's Day. The books used were, first an A B C and Spelling Book, interspersed with easy religious reading, next the Psalter, then as the highest, the Bible. Writing and Arithmetic were also taught; the Catechism was committed to memory. The school was always opened with singing and prayer. On most evenings each scholar was required to say a short prayer different from the others. Before

dismissal in the evening the youngest child would audibly say, "Jesum im Hertzen, Jesum im Sinn, darauf gehen wir in Gottes namen hin, Amen." (Jesus in the heart, Jesus in the thought, with this, in God's name, we go out, Amen). On every Saturday all the children who could read, standing up, chanted the gospel for the following Lord's Day." (*J. B. Hiester in Church Book*) John Reiter, who died in 1814, was school-master for forty (40) years.

When in the beginning of this century the idea of the Sunday School, as an institution, began to take hold of the minds of religious people, and were established, they did not take the place of these parish schools. Still, our people were among the first, everywhere, especially in the cities and larger towns to join heartily in the movement which has grown to such wonderful proportions, in this century of great things in the religious world. The compiler of this history, is indebted for the following sketch of the Sunday School in the First Reformed (Tabor) Church, to the now, and for the 32 years past, the efficient and eminently successful Superintendent of the school, Jos. L. Lemberger, written in 1875.

"The Sunday School of Tabor Reformed Church dates its organization as a distinct and separate Reformed School, as of August A. D., 1828, during the Pastorate of the Rev. Henry Kroh,

and is one of the first distinctly denominational Sunday Schools founded in this part of country. Its members were for the most part among the most efficient workers in the Union Sunday School cause, for at least eight years prior to this independent organization. There are living to-day (1875) members of the Reformed and Lutheran Churches, who served as colporteurs under the "American Sunday School Union and Tract Society." A long list of these worthy workers might be given. Many have gone to their reward, a few still remain. Of these is Jacob Roedel, Esq., who is still active in the good work. Although a member of the Lutheran Church, he was one of the founders of this school, and its first Superintendent for four years. To Mrs. Wm. Moore belongs the credit of having prepared a question-book for the systematic and uniform study of the Sunday School lesson in this place. Until then, each teacher came with his or her own lesson. After this, there being a common lesson, the teachers met weekly for its preparation for the next Lord's Day."

Our Pastor, the Rev. F. W. Kremer, D. D., Joseph Karch, Esq., Mrs. Eliza Hay, constitute a link of the present with the past, especially the period previous to the last fifteen years.

We are following as closely as we know in the spirit of the teaching of our fathers, whom we believe

to be in entire harmony with the true doctrines of the Reformation. We know no other. The Bible and the Heidelberg Catechism are our Text Books. We hold that children are born in the covenant, they are members of the Church, and that the Sunday School is an integral part of the same. Here, and in this way, we believe it to be the hope of the future.

A number have gone out of this Church School into the holy ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and others are on the way. May many more, in the future, be of those who shall feel themselves called to the same blessed work. As above stated, our normal relation to the Church is very close and real. The Pastor is the Shepherd of the School, as well as of the adult membership of the congregation; to him we look, from him we learn. We have a weekly meeting at which the lesson, carefully prepared, is given by the Pastor, and faithful teachers need not lack for help in the discharge of their obligations to those entrusted their care. The School has been blessed with faithful Pastors; and we desire a part of this sketch to be a record of the special fidelity of him who now leads the flock. The children are particularly urged and encouraged to attend the regular services of the Sanctuary, and many of them do so.

A quarterly service, known as the children's Church is held, when the whole school is taken to the

Audience-room of the Church, and a sermon specially prepared for them is preached. We have no vacations, every Lord's Day has its session. We try to be progressive, and whatever of good we find in the general Sunday School work, and which is not in conflict with our Church life and spirit, we cordially welcome and seek to adapt to our use. At this time there are 800 volumes in the library, managed with "Geist's Index System." We are using the "International Lessons" with the Heidelberg Teacher and other Reformed Church helps and lesson leaves as guides. "Leaves of Light" and "Child's Treasury" are circulated."

Our work is divided among three (3) departments: The Adult Class, Senior and Primary Departments. The first is composed of young men and women, married and single, with one Teacher and a Secretary of their own. The Class always joins in the opening services of the school, retiring to the audience chamber for the lesson, and returning to take part in the review of the lesson by the superintendent, and the closing exercises.

The Senior Department has thirty-three classes of about seven scholars each. It is officered by a Superintendent, two Assistants, a Librarian with two Assistants, a Secretary, Treasurer, Organist and Chorister. The Primary Department consists of twenty classes,

with about ten scholars each. They are taught in the use of "Bible Gems," prepared by one of our female teachers, and a catechism of easy lessons suited to their age. It has a Superintendent, two Assistants, a Secretary, Organist and Chorister. From time to time transfers and promotions are made, from Primary to Senior Departments, and here from one class grade to a higher, and finally to the Adult Class.

Benevolence is not only faithfully taught, but practiced. A collection is taken at every session, known as the missionary collection, and which, from time to time, is divided between the cause of Foreign and Home Missions and Beneficiary Education. All other expenses are met by separate and voluntary effort. There is a small income for the use of the school from invested funds held in trust.

The list of Superintendents is Jacob Roedel, William Yeho, William Hiester, John Ermentrout, Elias Raber and Jos. L. Lemberger."

Mr. Lemberger is at this time the Superintendent. He was elected June, 13th, 1860. During 1890 the Chapel having been enlarged and altered for the purpose, the Primary Department was divided, and a distinctively Infant Department constituted. It numbers about one hundred scholars. In the Fall of 1890, the Pastor organized a Class for such persons as were somewhat advanced in years, male and female, and

others of adult age, who were not, for some reason or other connected with the school.

The School has been steadily increasing in numbers and efficiency, notwithstanding the drains made by the organization of St. John's and St. Mark's. The roll is now about 750 in all departments. In 1890, a Birthday Fund was started, the income of which is devoted to the Christmas Entertainment. It has proved almost sufficient for this purpose, and by care may be made entirely so.

Two years ago (1890) a Japanese Fund was also inaugurated for the Foreign Mission work. This has been a great success from the start. We are raising more than enough for the education of two students in the Seminary at Sendai. This collection is taken on the last Sunday in each month. The regular collections have not diminished, but they have increased. We have as our wards at Sendai, Mr. Shida Toshiyuki and Mr. Igarashi Tadasu.

The following statistics will tell of the Church's work in this department of her activities. Adult Class, 62 and Pastor's Class, 61.

* * *

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| SCHOLARS, TEACHERS AND OFFICERS ENROLLED. | COLLECTION |
|---|--------------|
| 1880 | 624 |
| 1881 | 435 30 |
| 1882 | 466 76 |
| 1883 | 491 65 |
| 1884 | 652 |
| 1885 | 553 |
| 1886 | 578 |
| 1887 | 562 |
| 1888 | 559 |
| 1889 | 550 |
| 1890 | 600 |
| 1891 | 700 |

1890—Japanese Fund, \$139.26. Birthday, \$103.00. Total, \$711.43

1891— “ “ 164.63. “ 105.19. “ 807.39

1884—there was also collected for the Library 129.33.

1885—with Buck Fund for Chapel, collected, 187.53.

Meetings of Synod held in Lebanon:

1st. “Coetus of Pennsylvania.” 1775. F. Dalliker, President.

2d. “Synod of the United States” now “Eastern Synod.”

1803, J. H. Helfrich, President.

1829, G. Wack, “

*1860, J. W. Nevin, “

1879, C. J. Weiser, “

3d. “General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.”

1890, J. H. A. Bomberger, President.

*The Synod of 1860 was held in the St. Johns Reformed Church.

